

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08671 010856Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 JUSE-00 SY-04 DRC-01 TRSE-00

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P R 010650Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1739

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PFOR HK TW UK

SUBJ: POSSIBLE BRITISH REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE ON HONG KONG

SEAMEN SENTENCED IN TAIWAN

1. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ADVISOR ALAN DONALD SHOWED ME CABLE EXCHANGE WITH FCO CONCERNING TWO HONG KONG SEAMEN ARRESTED IN KAOSHIUNG FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SENTENCED TO DEATH. FCO MESSAGE OUTLINED RATHER FAR-FETCHED BRITISH CONCERNS OVER DEATH PENALTY, POINTING OUT THAT HKG HAD BEEN ASKING FOR ITS REINSTITUTION IN HONG KONG WHILE THIS WAS BEING RESISTED BY LABOR GOVERNMENT AND DRAWING CONCLUSION THAT FAILURE TO PROTEST IN SOME FASHION THE CARRYING OUT OF PENALTY IN TAIWAN AGAINST HONG KONG SEAMEN THEREFORE WOULD BE INCONSISTENT. LONDON ALSO EXPRESSED FEARS THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WOULD SOMEHOW BECOME INVOLVED. FCO IS GOING TO CONTACT US CONSUL GENERAL IN LONDON AND ALSO SUGGESTED EMBASSY APPROACH IN WASHINGTON FOR SOME SORT OF US INTERVENTION AS PROTECTING POWER.

2. IN COMMENTED THAT PERSONALLY I THOUGHT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT WE WOULD INTERVENE IN SUCH A MATTER. IN FIRST PLACE, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 HONG K 08671 010856Z

SEAMEN, WHILE HOLDING HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS, WERE

CHINA-BORN AND WERE THUS TO CHINESE EYES CHINESE CITIZENS
BREAKING CHINESE LAWS. IT WAS INCONVEIVABLE FOR
EXAMPLE THAT PRC OFFICIALS WOULD COUNTENANCE A SIMILAR APPROACH HAD
OFFENSE OCCURRED ON MAINLAND. I ALSO SAID THAT ARREST OF DRUG
TRAFFICKERS CARRYING 5 POUNDS OF NUMBER THREE HEROIN
PRESUMABLY DESTINED FOR US WAS SOMETHING WE WOULD BE
COMPLIMENTING ROC AUTHORITIES FOR AND WHETHER OR NOT IT
WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF DEA-ROC-HKG COOPERATION, ARREST
AND INFORMATION DERIVED FROM PRISONERS WOULD BE HELPFUL.
THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT HARSH PENALTY WOULD
SERVE AS A DETERRENT AND SUPPORT OUR MUTUAL EFFORT.
FYI: THERE IS A LOT OF OPERATIONAL STUFF INVOLVED HERE INCLUDING
HOLDING DEATH PENALTY OVER SUBJECTS IN ORDER TO EXTRACT
FURTHER INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE. END FYI.
THEREFORE, WHILE WHAT WE MIGHT DO WAS UP TO DEPARTMENT AND OUR
EMBASSY IN TAIPEI , I HOPED WE WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED.
CROSS

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